

Offender Treatment Advisory Group (OTAG) January 22, 2007 Meeting Summary

INTRODUCTIONS

Millicent Gomes, Deputy Director, Office of Criminal Justice Collaboration (OCJC) welcomed the new Offender Treatment Advisory Group. She thanked everyone for making the effort to attend this first collaborative meeting. She stated that OCJC was looking forward to the advisory group assisting in identifying issues and making recommendations for the Offender Treatment Program. Ms. Gomes facilitated introductions around the room.

DR. DOUGLAS MARLOWE

Ms. Gomes then introduced Dr. Douglas Marlowe, J.D., Ph.D. from the Treatment Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Marlowe is a Fellow in Addictions of the American Psychological Association (APA) and has a Certificate of Proficiency in the Treatment of Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders from the APA College of Professional Psychology. Dr. Marlowe has published over eighty professional articles and chapters on the topics of crime and drug abuse and is on the editorial boards of the *Drug Court Review* and *Criminal Justice & Behavior*. Dr. Marlowe then presented *Evidence-Based Policies for Drug Offenders*. Dr. Marlowe provided handouts of his slide show. Dr. Marlowe is going to have a new tool, Risk and Need Triage (RANT) available on the web in late February. Several counties have expressed an interest in piloting RANT once it is available.

After a question and answer period a short break was taken. It was decided to continue the meeting and finish early rather than break for lunch.

OFFENDER TREATMENT ADVISORY GROUP CHARTER

Ms. Gomes reviewed the agenda and the contents of the folder. Among the handouts were: the group membership list and the OTP Advisory Group charter.

Ms. Gomes briefly went over the charter which included purpose and goals of this newly formed group. The focus of OTP Advisory Group will be on improving program outcomes through strategies identified by the five-year SACPA evaluation conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and other research.

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The purpose of the OTP Advisory Group is to identify issues and make recommendations to the Office of Criminal Justice Collaboration regarding:

- Developing a mechanism for instituting best practices in California's counties regarding SACPA and OTP
- Enhancing system integration between criminal justice agencies and drug treatment systems within the counties
- Improving levels of suitability, acceptance, participation and accountability of offenders referred to treatment
- Engaging and retaining offenders in treatment once admitted
- Matching severity of dependence to intensity of services with broader, more accessible services to special populations (e.g., minorities or individuals with co-occurring disorders)

The goals that the OTP Advisory Group is working towards on this committee are for our fields, treatment and criminal justice:

- Enhance treatment services for offenders assessed to need them, including residential treatment and narcotic replacement therapy
- Increase the proportion of sentenced offenders who enter, remain in, and complete treatment, through activities and approaches such as co-location of services, enhanced supervision of offenders, and enhanced services determined necessary through the use of drug test results
- Reduce delays in the availability of appropriate treatment services
- Use of a drug court model, including dedicated court calendars with regularly scheduled reviews of treatment progress, and strong collaboration by the courts, probation, and treatment
- Develop treatment services that are needed but not available
- Other activities, approaches, and services approved by the department, after consultation with stakeholders

PROGRAMMATIC AND FUNDING

Ms. Gomes provided a brief background of SACPA, OTP, and its funding:

- The FY 2006-07 State Budget continued SACPA funding at \$120 million. Additionally, the Substance Abuse Offender Treatment Program (OTP) was enacted by the budget trailer bill. OTP made \$25 million available to counties to improve treatment program outcomes for SACPA offenders and requires a \$9 to \$1 match from the counties; the goal is to ultimately enhance cost savings identified through the UCLA study.
- OTP funding was allocated to 39 counties that met program requirements such as a dedicated court calendar, availability or establishment of an adult drug court, and implementation of other best practices described in the UCLA evaluation(s).

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- The Governor's Budget for FY 2007-08 proposes a reduction in Proposition 36 funding by \$60 million and utilizes this funding to provide an increase of \$35 million to OTP and a one-time net savings of \$25 million to the State.
- There will be Trailer Bill Language publicly released on February 1, 2007. It is unclear right now what changes, if any, will be included in the TBL regarding SACPA and/or OTP.
- A comparison matrix of SACPA, OTP, and the Governor's Budget is in the handout package. An updated matrix with the latest changes to the Governor's Budget will be sent to the members in early February.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The group discussed the impact of the proposed budget changes. Many expressed concern over the move of additional funds to OTP. The county match is a large source of this concern. Currently the interpretation of that match is very restrictive. There was also concern that this shift of dollars would have a negative impact on the collaboration everyone has spent years building. We need to enhance and maintain the system integration that has been built over the last five years.

The group discussed whether or not they would need subcommittees. The group decided against subcommittees at this time.

Everyone expressed the need to have some discussions when the trailer bill language becomes public. The group agreed to a conference call in February. The conference call is set for February 13, 2007, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- MOE information: How will the funding changes impact the MOE?
- UCLA report if it is out. It will be published in February or March of 2007.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- February 13, 2007
- March 9, 2007
- May 4, 2007
- July 13, 2007
- September 7, 2007
- November 2, 2007